



# Department of Justice

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## **FORMER NEW CASTLE POLICE OFFICER SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON FOR PRODUCTION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

INDIANAPOLIS - Joseph H. Hogsett, U.S. Attorney, Southern District of Indiana, announced today that Lawrence Ross Frame, 46, New Castle, Indiana, was sentenced to 15 years in prison by U.S. District Judge William T. Lawrence following his guilty plea to the sexual exploitation of children (production of child pornography). This case was the result of an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Homeland Security Investigations, the Henry County Sheriff's Office, the Henry County Prosecutor's Office, the New Castle Police Department, the U.S. Secret Service, the Hamilton County Metro Child Exploitation Task Force, the Carmel Police Department, the Fishers Police Department, the Noblesville Police Department and the Indiana State Police.

Until his arrest on August 4, 2009, Frame was a detective with the New Castle Police Department. Frame was an officer with the New Castle Police Department for nearly twenty years. In early August 2009, the New Castle Police Department and Henry County Sheriff's Office received a report that Frame may have engaged in sexual activity with a minor female and produced images and videos of her engaged in sexually explicit conduct (child pornography). The minor female, named as "Jane Doe 1" in the charging Information in order to protect her identity, was 16 years of age at the time of production of the child pornography depicting her. Federal law makes it unlawful to produce such material involving minors under the age of 18 years.

On August 4, 2009, the Henry County Sheriff's Office notified the Henry County Prosecutor's Office and the U.S. Attorney's Office of the allegations. Within hours of the notification, a joint investigation was initiated involving numerous federal agents and law enforcement officers from state, county and local agencies, many of whom were members of the Indiana Internet Crimes Against Children ("ICAC") Task Force, due to the allegations that computer evidence and a minor victim were involved.

Frame was taken into custody upon reporting for his scheduled shift with the New Castle Police Department the afternoon of August 4, 2009. Numerous digital storage devices, such as thumb drives and camera memory cards, were taken from Frame's pockets and personal effects, in addition to laptop computers in his vehicles. Using innovative techniques developed in Indiana, Frame's digital storage devices and computers were forensically examined on-scene by members of the Indiana ICAC task force. Child pornography images and videos of Jane Doe 1 produced on several dates were found on various devices. Frame admitted to the production of the child pornography and was arrested that evening.

"This case is a fantastic illustration of how cooperation between federal, state, county and local agencies leads directly to a safer community for Indiana's children," noted U.S. Attorney Hogsett. "This office has worked hard to help facilitate a strong task force that is fast, flexible and innovative in its response to crimes against children. This investment of energy and resources paid off once again in this case, in which a well trained, motivated team of individuals from all levels of law enforcement worked together to identify, arrest and successfully prosecute a man whose actions demonstrated that he was a threat to children."

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney A. Brant Cook, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Lawrence also imposed lifetime supervised release following Frame's release from prison. During the period of supervised release, Frame must register as a sex offender and comply with sex offender treatment, among other conditions. Frame was fined in the amount of \$1000. "The sentence issued today by the Court was significant and just" said Cook. "As a veteran police officer, Frame was supposed to be the individual that enforced the law and protected individuals and the community. He chose, instead, to repeatedly violate the law and victimize a 16 year old girl. He now faces the consequences of those actions."

Frame's arrest and subsequent prosecution is part of the ongoing fight to protect children under Project Safe Childhood. Project Safe Childhood is a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims of child exploitation. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

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